

D348

B E693 AAE

MAHATHIR-WARNING R'R'R'R R R R R R R R R R R

(P)

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BM

JITRA, MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY WARNED HE WILL PUT UP A FIGHT IF CHALLENGED AND FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM HIS POST.

DESCRIBING THOSE WHO CRITICISED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AS +LEADERS WHO WANT POSITION FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT+, HE AGAIN EMPHASISED HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP WOULD RETIRE WHEN THE TIME CAME.

+HOWEVER, WHEN I AM CHALLENGED AND FORCED TO STEP DOWN, I WILL FIGHT AND NOT TOLERATE IT,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE KUBANG/PASU UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES MEETING AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH JITRA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANYONE ASPIRING TO TAKE OVER TOP POSTS IN UMNO AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PATIENT AND ADHERE TO THE TRADITIONS OF THE MALAYS.

THE HISTORY OF THE NATION'S LEADERSHIP SINCE THE TIME OF TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN UP TO TUN HUSSEIN ONN SHOWED NO ONE HAD TRIED TO TOPPLE ANOTHER, HE SAID. -- MORE

1638MST 21 03 87

D364

B E697 AAE

MAHATHIR-WARNING 2 JITRA R'R'R'R R R R R R R R R R R

+THE LATE TUN RAZAK WAITED PATIENTLY FOR 13 YEARS TO BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER, TUN HUSSEIN ONN DID NOT TOPPLE TUN RAZAK AND I MYSELF HAD NEVER TRIED TO TOPPLE TUN HUSSEIN TO BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN I WAS THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, I ALWAYS TOLD TUN HUSSEIN I WAS PREPARED TO SHOULDER THE DUTIES HE WAS UNABLE TO PERFORM DUE TO HIS HEALTH.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REITERATED HE WAS PUZZLED WHY SOME UMNO LEADERS WERE STILL SPREADING ALLEGATIONS OF HIM BEING THE RICHEST PRIME MINISTER IN THE WORLD.

HE SAID HE WAS IN THE PARTY TO SERVE NOT HIS OWN INTERESTS BUT THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN CHALLENGED THOSE ACCUSING HIM OF BEING THE RICHEST PRIME MINISTER IN THE WORLD TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR ALLEGATION WITH HARD PROOF. -- MORE

1707MST 21 03 87

D366

B E698 AAE

MAHATHIR-WARNING 3 JITRA R'R'R'R

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SLAMMED CERTAIN QUARTERS HE SAID HAD EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN ROUND THE COUNTRY TO DISCREDIT THE LEADERSHIP AND CRITICISE GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

HE REJECTED CLAIMS THAT UMNO WAS NOW FACING A LEADERSHIP CRISIS. -- BERNAMA

1709MST 21 03 87